

## Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

PC-05 OMB-01 IO-10 TRSE-00 /088 W

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R 281142Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11673

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: GOI RECOGNITION OF THE NEW BANGLADESH REGIME AND COMMENTS  
OF MRS. GANDHI

REF: NEW DELHI 11414

1. AN MEA SPOKESMAN AUGUST 27 MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT  
ON GOI RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME IN DACCA:

"WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON THE SAME  
BASIS AS WHEN WE RECOGNISED BANGLADESH IN DECEMBER 1971.

"OUR HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH  
ON AUGUST 20 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF  
BANGLADESH. THE BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED ON  
THE PRIME MINISTER ON AUGUST 25 AND HAD EARLIER MET

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THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

"WE HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE NORMAL MANNER THROUGH OUR RESPECTIVE MISSIONS. "A BANGLADESH DELEGATION WAS IN NEW DELHI ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO. IT WOULD BE CLEAR FROM ALL THIS THAT WE CONTINUE TO RECOGNISE BANGLADESH."

2. IN AN INTERVIEW AUGUST 21 WITH THE FOREIGN EDITOR OF CAIRO'S "AL AHAM", PRIME MINISTER GANDHI REPORTEDLY SAID "IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT LEADERS OF BANGLADESH WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE OBJECTIVE OF GOODWILL AND COOPERATION ON THE SUBCONTINENT--AS THEY HAVE ANNOUNCED IN THEIR FIRST STATEMENT--AND THTHAT THEY WILL WORK FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE IDEALS ON WHICH THE BANGLADESH NATION WAS BUILT." THE PRIME MINISTER SAID FOR INDIA'S PART "WE ARE UNSHAKABLY COMMITTED TO THE PURSUIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH BANGLADESH AND WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS. ONE DOES NOT NORMALLY COMMENT ON THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY OF A NEIGHBOUR. BUT ASSASSINATION IS ALWAYS REGRETTABLE AND THE ASSASSINATION OF A GREAT STATESMAN AND SYMBOL FIGURE OF NATIONAL FREEDOM LIKE SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN IS DOUBLY DEPLORABLE." SHE SAID THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO FORECAST THE EFFECTS OF BANGLDESH DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LARGER ASIAN CONTINENT. "OUR OWN SINCERE WISH IS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY COMPLICATE THE SITUATION." MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THERE ARE DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE CONTINENT WHICH ARE OF EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE, PARTICULARLY THE SITUATION IN S.E. ASIA AFTER THE VIET NAM WAR. THE LESSONS ARE THAT NATIONS SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE THEIR OWN DESTINY AND THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR FOREIGN PRESENCES."SAXBE

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